

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 through 22 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16, 19, 21, and 22 being independent.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 11-14, 16, 19, 21, and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-5, 11-15, and 22 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent No. 0715246 A1 (Stefik, et, al.). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claims 1, 4, 11, 14, and 22, the present invention relates to an apparatus, method, and computer program for displaying a scene including a plurality of objects. As recited in Claims 1, 11, and 22, the invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of (i) identifying an object having copyright-protected information and (ii) constructing the scene from the plurality of objects so that the constructed scene does not include an object identified by the identifying means/step until a predetermined authenticating process is finished. Similarly, as recited in Claims 4 and 14, the invention includes, among others, the features of (i) identifying an object having copyright-protected information, (ii) classifying the identified object in a first group and classifying the other objects in a second group, and (iii) constructing the scene from the plurality of objects on the basis of the classified groups, so that the constructed scene does not include the object having copyright-protected information that has not been authenticated.

According to the above-mentioned features, a displayed scene is displayed differently depending on the result of the identification of copyright-protected information. In other words, a scene may be constructed and displayed without certain objects if those objects are identified as having copyright-protected information and an authentication process has not been performed. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned claim features.

Stefik, et al. merely discloses that usage right information can be set to each of a plurality of digital works to control usage thereof. However, Applicant submits that Stefik, et al. fails to disclose or suggest constructing a scene from a plurality of objects on the basis of an identification result, so that an object identified as containing copyright-protected information is not included until a predetermined authenticating process is finished.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in Claims 1, 4, 11, 14, and 22 is patentable over Stefik, et al.

Claims 6-10 and 16-21 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stefik, et, al taken in combination with the article “MPEG-4 Systems, concepts and implementation” by Casalino, et al. Applicant respectfully traverses that rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claims 6, 9, 16, 19, and 21, the present invention relates to an image processing apparatus, method, and system. As recited in Claims 6, 16, and 21, the invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of (i) separating scene data, media data and copyright-protected data from received scene data describing a 3-dimensional scene, (ii) forming copyright-

protected scene data and copyright-unprotected scene data from the separated scene data and on the basis of the separated copyright-protected data, and (iii) constructing the 3-dimensional scene on the basis of decoded media data and the copyright-protected scene data and the copyright-unprotected scene data and rendering the constructed 3-dimensional scene to display on a display screen. As recited in Claims 9 and 19, the present invention includes, among others, the features of (i) identifying a 3-dimensional object designated by a copyright protection node, (ii) constructing a 3-dimensional scene from a plurality of 3-dimensional objects on a basis of the identification result so that the constructed 3-dimensional scene does not include the identified 3-dimensional object until a predetermined authenticating process is finished, and (iii) displaying the constructed 3-dimensional scene on a display screen.

Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features. As discussed above, Stefik, et al. discloses setting usage right information for each of a plurality of digital works. However, the document does not disclose or suggest constructing a 3-dimensional scene from 3-dimensional objects and displaying the constructed 3-dimensional scene on a display screen. Casalino, et al. fails to remedy these deficiencies. That document discloses an MPEG4 system. However, it also fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of constructing and displaying a scene as recited in the above-discussed claims.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 6, 9, 16, 19, and 21 are also patentable over the cited art.

The dependent claims are patentable for the same reasons as the claims they depend from, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 721-5427. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Klock", written over a horizontal line.

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